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Approved For Release 2002/05/29 : CIA-RDP91-00682R000300120061-2
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : **AMEMBASSY, STOCKHOLM**

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DESP. NO.

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**

September 12, 1952
DATE

REF : **Deptciraigram Control 670, July 8, 5:35 p.m.**

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SUBJECT: **Visit to Stockholm of Refugee and Escapee Subcommittee**

CODEL

The following members of the Refugee and Escapee Subcommittee visited Stockholm from September 4-6, 1952: Senator Willis SMITH (accompanied by Mrs. Smith), Messrs. Richard ARENS, William ARENS, Drury BLAIR, Frank SCHROEDER and William WEBSTER. They arrived by plane from Copenhagen at 6 p.m. September 4 and departed at 5 p.m. September 6 by air for Oslo. While in Stockholm they stayed at the Grand Hotel.

A briefing session for the Subcommittee was held at the Ambassador's office at 10 a.m. September 5. Following opening remarks by Senator Smith and by the Ambassador, there was a general discussion of Sweden's handling of refugees and escapees. Members of the Subcommittee were given copies of a Special Report on Refugees in Sweden, prepared by the Political Section of the Embassy. (Copies of this report were forwarded under cover of Despatch 242 of September 6.) The Subcommittee appeared to be most interested in the following related questions: (1) The Swedish Government's control of refugees, including measures taken to receive and screen refugees and to find them suitable employment and housing; (2) The possibility that Sweden might be willing to accept a larger number of refugees; (3) Measures taken by the Swedish authorities to combat Communism. Embassy officers discussed questions (1) and (2) along the lines set forth in the above-mentioned Special Report and, with reference to (3), emphasis was laid on the effective measures taken over the past year by Swedish organized labor to detect Communists within its ranks and to remove them from sensitive positions in industry and communications.

The Embassy briefing was followed by a luncheon in honor of Senator and Mrs. Smith and members of their party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Green. The afternoon was given over to sightseeing and shopping. That evening (September 5) a reception was held in

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their honor at the Embassy Residence, to which all members of the Aliens Commission (which is charged with the control of refugees in Sweden and is comprised of high-ranking representatives from the Riksdag, the State Police, the Foreign Office, the Labor Market Board, etc.) and their wives were invited. Among the other guests present were Justice SANDSTRÖM (Chairman of the International Red Cross) and Mrs. Agda RUSSEL (Sweden's representative on the UN Commission on Human Rights).

The following day (September 6) a special meeting was arranged at 10 a.m. at the Aliens Commission headquarters where the Subcommittee, accompanied by two officers of this Embassy, discussed refugee problems with some of the working members of the Commission. The members of the Subcommittee seemed to be favorably impressed with the measures taken by Sweden for receiving and assimilating escapees and refugees and with the fact that Sweden requires no financial assistance from abroad for caring for its refugees. There was some discussion of the possibility that Sweden might be prepared to accept a larger number of refugees, but the representatives of the Aliens Commission pointed out that Sweden's position in the premises is based on a number of considerations, particularly labor market policy, which militate against Sweden receiving any appreciably increased flow of refugees. It was stressed, at the same time, that Sweden will continue to receive bona fide political refugees escaping directly to Sweden's shores and will continue to accept a limited number of tubercular patients from DP camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. Senator Smith and Mr. Richard Arens presented an interesting account of refugee problems in Germany and Southern Europe.

It might be added by way of post scriptum that the Embassy appreciated very much having the Subcommittee visit Stockholm -- a visit which was pleasant and, at least from the Embassy's viewpoint, instructive and helpful.

For the Ambassador:

Marshall Green

Marshall Green
First Secretary of Embassy

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